needs of its maritime operations and new challenges. Appropriate equipment and funds will be made available to the Coast Guard to meet its operational commitments.

Pakistan's plans to attack in Poonch

1090. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Government has again planned to attack in Poonch as was done in Kargil as appeared in the vernacular daily Lokmat dated 30th January, 2002.

(b) whether terrorists are entering Indian territory for such activities, and

(c) whether Government have taken security measures to counteract such activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no credible intelligence report to confirm the news item which appeared in the vernacular daily Lokmat on 30.1.2002 on this subject.

(c) Army has instituted a comprehensive surveillance system and adopted a suitable defensive posture to ensure security of our borders and the Line of Control.

Standard schedule of rates for construction of bridges by BRO

1091. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Border Roads Organisation is yet to form a standard schedule of rates for different areas;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) the bases on which BRO prepares its estimates for construction of bridges; and

(d) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure time bound completion of construction of bridges undertaken by BRO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Earlier the bridge estimates were being arrived at, on per meter cost basis, taken over from the latest completed bridges in the similar situations. The standard schedule of rates has since been issued in April 2001. With the result, the preparation of cost estimates for bridges is now being done on item-rate basis.

(d) The following steps have been taken for time bound construction of bridges:—

(i) Deeper attention to site selection and sub-soil investigations.

(ii) Fixing of realistic time period for completion of work by keeping in view the climatic/working conditions remoteness of the site.

(iii) Closer monitoring of works.

(iv) On job training of Officers and subordinates.

(v) Gradually switching over from lumpsum to item rate contracts.

(vi) Introducing Computer Aided Design of bridges.

Pak intrusion through Siliguri corridor

†1092. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Siliguri corridor has helped Pak intruders substantially;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to check the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Siliguri corridor is vulnerable from the security point of view

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.